



Barnstable County

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPE COD





Flowing Forward: Managing the Future of I/A Systems on Cape Cod

David Iorio Izzo

Barnstable County Septic Utility Program

*“Do unto those downstream as you would
have those upstream do unto you.”*

- WENDELL BERRY

What is an RME?

- SUP is an RME (Responsible Management Entity)
- Can functions like a sewer utility but manages residential Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic systems.
- Ensures I/A systems operate efficiently, safeguarding public health and the environment.
- SUP Mission:
 - Stewardship of I/A systems.
 - Supports Cape Cod communities to achieving water quality and public health objectives.

Services We Provide:

RME can oversee every facet of the I/A's lifecycle:

- **Permitting & Installation:** ensure systems meet regulatory & environmental standards
- **Operation & Monitoring:** Continuous oversight to guarantee systems function at their best
- **Long-Term Care:** Providing maintenance & support to extend the system's life & effectiveness.
- **Education:** to the public, installers & operators.



What Can the SUP do for a town?

- **Cost Distribution and Regulatory Compliance:**
 - Can coordinate and manage multiple I/A system installations through a competitive bidding process.
 - Instead of individual homeowners navigating the procurement process alone, we can pool resources and solicit bids for multiple installations simultaneously.
 - This approach not only drives down costs through economies of scale but also ensures consistent quality and adherence to regulatory standards.
-

What Can the SUP do for a town?

- **Operation and Management (O/M) of Systems:**
 - Can offer comprehensive solutions for the ongoing operation and management of I/A systems
 - By bidding for an operator to oversee a series of systems, we streamline administrative tasks for homeowners and operators while ensuring consistent maintenance standards.
 - Under this model, the SUP assumes responsibility for contracting with operators, simplifying payment processes, and providing homeowners with a single point of contact for their system needs.

What Can the SUP do for a town?

- **Unbiased Third-Party Oversight:**

- Can serve as an impartial third party, conducting sampling and inspections to verify system performance and regulatory compliance.
- This unbiased oversight helps instill confidence in residents and regulatory agencies alike, fostering transparency and accountability throughout the process.

- **Education:**

- Operators/Installers: Training and Certification
 - Homeowners/Public: Awareness and Information
-

Some other things we do:

- **I/A Database:**

- Internet accessible database, enabling operators to submit maintenance & sampling reports online.
- Allows Boards of Health and MassDEP to oversee I/A system effectiveness and ensure maintenance contracts are in effect.

- **Facilitate Recommend Technology Panel (RTP):**

- Comprised of experts in the field without affiliations to any specific technology.
 - Data from the I/A database and reputable external sources for non-MA systems.
 - Create a performance-based list of I/As for towns (August 2024).
 - Routinely update list.
-

Cape Cod Aquifund

- Provides low-interest betterment loans to Cape Cod homeowners faced with the cost of repairing/replacing failed septic systems, upgrading to alternative septic system technologies, as well as connecting to town sewer. (0-4% / max 20-year repayment term)
- Covers: all work directly relating to the repair, upgrade, or installation of a septic system or town sewer connection. This includes engineering costs and installation costs.
 - Incidental work associated with the project may also be covered. Examples: Loaming and seeding after work completion, repair to a driveway damaged during construction, required plumbing changes, well relocation.

A Vital Piece of the Puzzle

- Essential to see each as a critical component in a broader strategy to tackle water quality issues: sewers, I/A systems, Eco-sanitation, bogs/wetlands, ???
- By partnering with the SUP, a town can harness the collective resources and expertise of our RME to advance its CWMP goals. Whether through streamlined installations, centralized O/M services, impartial oversight or education, we can support Cape Cod in safeguarding its environmental resources and public health for generations to come.

Thank You!

David Iorio Izzo

david.iorioizzo@capecod.gov
